

VZCZCXYZ0001
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHKKA #0548 1431001
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P 221001Z MAY 08
FM AMEMBASSY DHAKA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6782
INFO RUEHLM/AMEMBASSY COLOMBO 8454
RUEHIL/AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD 2183
RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 0126
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0479
RUEKDIA/Joint STAFF WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 0119
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RUEKDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC

UNCLAS DHAKA 000548

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/PB AND IO/PSC COL MROZINSKI

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: PGOV MARR KPKO BG

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR RAISES UNAMID AVIATION SUPPORT WITH BANGLADESH'S FOREIGN ADVISER

REF: A) STATE 49277 B) DHAKA 527

¶1. (SBU) Bangladesh Foreign Adviser Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury told the Ambassador May 15 the Government of Bangladesh (GOB) is prepared to "revisit" the request for aviation assets in support of the UN-AU peacekeeping operation in Darfur (UNAMID). Chowdhury said the Bangladesh military had limited aviation capacity, but he said he would discuss with Bangladesh's Armed Forces Division (AFD), Bangladesh's JCS equivalent, the possibility of freeing up some assets in order to support UNAMID. Chowdhury welcomed the USG offer to consider requests for assistance to upgrade assets.

¶2. (SBU) Chowdhury noted Bangladesh already had offered to support UNAMID with two infantry battalions. He said Bangladesh strongly supported UNAMID's mission. He also observed that Bangladesh's participation would greatly enhance UNAMID practically and symbolically, because of Bangladesh's experience in peacekeeping and reputation as a moderate Muslim nation.

Moriarty